



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 07781.0013-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Stefan HACK et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3623  
)  
Application No.: 09/609,714 ) Examiner: Heck, Michael C.  
)  
Filed: June 30, 2000 ) Conf. No.: 2503  
)  
For: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION )  
SYSTEM AND METHOD )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In reply to the Final Office Action of April 2, 2004, the period for reply to which extends through September 2, 2004, with a request for a two-month extension of time and fee payment being submitted concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 in this paper.

**Remarks** follow the Amendment to the Claims section of this paper and begin on page 16.

09/03/2004 BABRAHA1 00000064 09609714

01 FC:1202 144.00 OP  
02 FC:1201 172.00 OP